NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR VIRAL RESPIRATORY PATHOGENS

A Guide For Providers

USE MASK, GLOVES, AND EYE PROTECTION

NASOPHARYNGEAL ASPIRATE METHOD (PREFERRED)

Materials:

- Suction apparatus (Luken's trap, syringe, or bulb)
- Sterile suction catheter (e.g., #8 French)
- Sterile saline
- Viral transport medium tube
- 1. Attach catheter to suction apparatus.
- 2. Instill several drops of sterile saline into each nostril.
- 3. Place catheter through nostril to posterior nasopharynx (same distance as from nostrils to external opening of ear).
- 4. Apply gentle suction. Using rotating motion, slowly withdraw catheter.
- 5. For an optimal sample, repeat procedure using other nostril.
- 6. With the viral transport medium, rinse secretions through the catheter into the collection container.

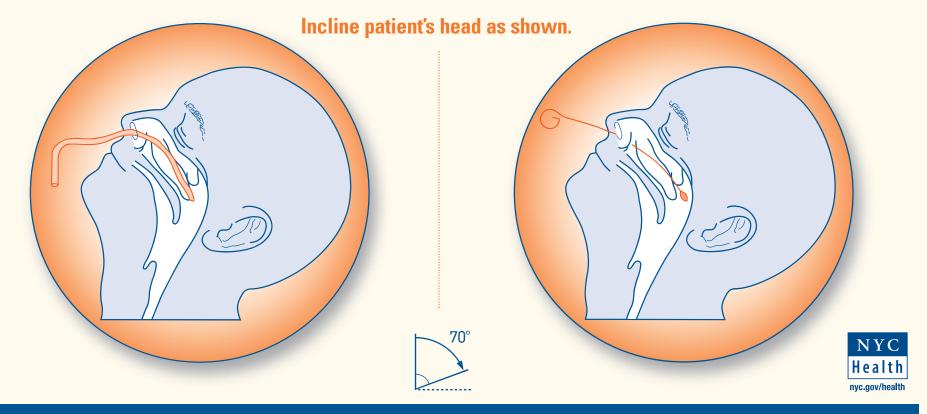
NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB METHOD

Materials:

- Nasopharyngeal swab (flexible shaft) with rayon tip
- Viral transport medium tube
- 1. Bend shaft to follow curve of nasopharynx.
- 2. Insert swab through nostril to posterior nasopharynx (same distance as from nostrils to external opening of ear).
- 3. Rotate swab a few times to obtain infected cells.
- 4. For an optimal sample, repeat procedure using other nostril.
- 5. Place swab in transport medium.
- 6. Bend or cut shaft to completely seal transport tube.

TRANSPORT & STORAGE

- 1. Send specimen to lab immediately (testing sensitivity decreases over time).
- 2. Cool specimen to 2° 4° C (36° 40° F) during storage and transport.



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